13 more wells at a cost of Rs. 27,000 have since been constructed. A Public Health engineer, specially trained in the All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health is now attending to the scheme of sinking of wells.

39. *Milk Distribution.*—The scheme for the free distribution of milk to undernurished children and expectant mothers which was practically stopped from April 1950 due to want of supplies, was revived from August last year with the help of a free gift of nearly 4½ lakhs of pounds of milk powder by the UNICEF. At present 205 free milk distribution centres are functioning, including the five major hospitals of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Kottayam and Ernakulam and the Ayurvedic Hospital, Trivandrum. The scheme was extended to the primary schools also and 100 schools in Travancore and 50 in Cochin are now getting the benefit of free distribution of milk. Arrangements have been made to extend the benefit of the scheme to 300 primary schools and 7 nursery schools. The generous assistance of the UNICEF has come to us at a time when, on account of the scarcity of food grains, we are in great difficulties about maintaining the health standards of our people, particularly the undernurished children and I take this opportunity to convey to them the sincere appreciation of this Government for their timely help.

40. *Malaria Control.*—In the budget of 1950—51 a scheme costing of Rs. 3½ lakhs per annum was sanctioned by Government for starting State-wide Malaria control measures. As a result a general fall in the incidence of this disease has been observed in the State as a whole. It is hoped that very soon this scourge will be brought under complete control and wiped out. A provision of Rs. 3·66 lakhs is made in the budget for the next year for the prevention of epedemics like Malaria, Plague and Cholera.

41. *Filariasis Control.*—In the budget for the current year there is a provision of Rs. 1,32,000 to continue the filariasis control measures in Shertallai and Ambalapuzha taluks and to extend the work to parts of Karthigapally taluk where the incidence of this disease is fouud to be very high. A scheme for filariasis control, in collaboration with the Indian Council of Medical Research has been sanctioned and a provision of Rs. 20,000 is made for the purpose.

42. *Cholera*—There was a serious and widespread epidemic of cholera in several parts of the State, particularly in South Travancere, Shencottah, Knttanad and Chittur taluks. The Public Health Department took prompt measures to bring the epidemic under control by means of mass vaccination and about 3 lakhs of people were protected. As a result, the incidence of the epidemic in this State was very low. The epidemic is now under control in the State and the protective measures are being continued to prevent a fresh outbreak.

43. *Leprosy.*—A sum of Rs. 0·73 lakhs has been provided for the survey and treatment of leprosy.

44. *Rural Sanitation.*—It is also proposed to take up during the next year a scheme for the mass construction of latrines in rural areas. The Public Health Engineer is preparing the designs for various types of latrines suitable for the different types of soil. An intensive drive for construction of Sanitary latrines in rural areas will be organised next year and advice and assistance given to house owners. A provision of Rs. 70,000 is made in the next year's budget for the purpose.

Medical College

45. The construction of the Medical College building was started in January 1950 and is progressing ahead of schedule. The estimated cost of the whole scheme is Rs. 54 lakhs. It is hoped that the construction of the building could be completed and the College opened this year. A sum of Rs. 25 lakhs is included in the Budget for the Medical College.

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